

Patent Claims

IT is claimed:

1. External electrodes (3, 4, 8) on piezoceramic multilayer actuators (1), composed of a layer of a basic metallization (3) applied to the ceramic material (2) of the surface of the actuator (1), to which metallization there is joined by means of a joining layer (8) a reinforcing layer (4) to which a connecting wire (5) is soldered, characterized in that the layer of basic metallization (3) is structured (15) by discontinuities or recesses (17).
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2. External electrodes according to Claim 1, characterized in that the structure (15) of the basic metallization (3) is composed of a printed pattern of a suitable termination paste, which printed pattern has been produced by means of a printing method.
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3. External electrodes according to Claim 1, characterized in that the structure (15) of the basic metallization (3) is formed by a mechanical, chemical or electrochemical removal in a layer of the basic metallization (3) applied over the entire area.
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4. External electrodes according to Claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the basic metallization (3) is composed of a suitable termination paste that has the composition Ag_xPd_y , where $x + y = 1$ and $1 > x > 0$, but preferably $1 > x > 0.7$.
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5. External electrodes according to Claim 1, characterized in that the structure (15) of the
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